cost of all RR benefits. The policy provides a minimum prescribed package above which the project authorities are free to provide additional benefits. Importance of an adequate grievance redressal and minitoring mechanism is envisaged at local, state and national level.

Government of India has also enacted Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which lay down procedures for Environment and Forest clearance of the projects and address environmental concerns.

Drying up and Silting of Down-Stream River Beds

2748. SHRI E.BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the big dams and barrages have cuased drying up and silting of down-stream river beds of almost all the rivers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the effect of the dried up and silted river beds on environment and economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) There is no report of completely drying up and silting of rivers due to construction of dams and barrages. However, there may be reduction in flows in the immediate vicinity down-stram of dams/barrages. Further down-stream the rivers are rejuvenated by the return flows from the irrigation commands. Most of the dams are provided with the river sluices to make releases to meet the requirement of minimum flows for maintaining the river regime.

Due to population pressure and abatrsction for water of various purposes there is a general reduction in the flows of the rivers during the lean season. This reduction of flow leads to reduced pollutant carrying capacity of the rivers in affected reaches and thereby affecting the quality of water in the rivers.

Level of Sub-Soil Water

2749. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of reports regarding the diminishing level of sub-soil water table invarious parts of the country;

(b) if so, what is the reacton of Government to this fact; and

(c) what Government propose to do to deal this later phenomemon that has potential danger for the future generations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of decline of ground water level in some parts of the country. The Central Ground Water Board monitors ground water levels through a network of 14,776 Hydrograph Network Stations in the country. Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the States/districts showing pockets where fall in ground water level for more than 4 meters (1980-1999) has been observed are indicated in the statement.

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to increase the ground water level in the country include :

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country.

STATEMENT

NAME OF THE STATE/DISTRICT SHOWING ANNUAL DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL OF MORE THAN 4 METRES (1980-99)

Sl. No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	Shrikakulam, Chittor.
2.	MAHARASHTRA	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Satara, Aurangabad, Sangli, Buldhana, Amravati.
3.	PUNJAB	Amritsar, Jallandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh.
4.	HARYANA	Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Mehandargarh, Jind.
5.	UTTAR PRADESH	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fetehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital.
6.	BIHAR	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbhanga.
7.	WEST BENGAL	Purlia, Midnapur.
8.	ORISSA	Koraput, Mayurbhanj.
9.	RAJASTHAN	Nagaur, Bikaner, Jaipur.
10.	MADHYA PRADESH	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur.
11.	KARNATAKA	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga.
12.	TAMIL NADU	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Paddukottai, Kamrajar, Thirunaganar, North Kannada.